



# FOCUS

**WINTER 2006**

**REPORT FROM CITY HALL**

**SAN BRUNO  
CITY COUNCIL**

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Larry Franzella

**Vice Mayor**  
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Irene O'Connell  
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**City Manager**  
Connie Jackson

**City Clerk**  
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**City Treasurer**  
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**City of San Bruno  
Online Address:**  
<http://www.sanbruno.ca.gov>

**City Hall Hours:**  
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

We welcome your comments.  
Please call Terry Jackson,  
Library Services Director, at  
(650) 616-7013, or email her  
at [tjackson@sanbruno.ca.gov](mailto:tjackson@sanbruno.ca.gov).

**City of San Bruno**  
567 El Camino Real  
San Bruno, CA 94066



## Major Sewer Project Making Progress

"We're halfway done," says Project Engineer Wing Wong of the \$1.5 million Relief Sewer Project Phase I. This project installs almost 5,000 linear feet of new 18-inch PVC sewer pipe, mostly along Fleetwood Drive and Catalpa Way, with 33 new man-holes. Two smaller diversion pipelines at Amador Drive and Sneath Lane (west of Skyline Boulevard) will divert flow from inaccessible, steep existing sewer lines that will be eliminated.

The Rollingwood project is the last major piece of the City's effort over the last seven years to improve reliability and reduce the risk of sewage overflows. Other projects have enlarged and rehabilitated wastewater capacity in mains under Sneath Lane, Seventh Avenue, Angus Avenue, the Belle Air neighborhood, and in Crestmoor Canyon. Pump stations in the Pacific Heights and Lomita Park neighborhoods were also rebuilt to make them more dependable and to increase their capacity.

Discovery of smaller-than-expected pipes downstream from the Amador and Sneath

*(Continued on page 6)*

PRST STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
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SAN BRUNO, CA 94066  
PERMIT # 84

Postal Customer

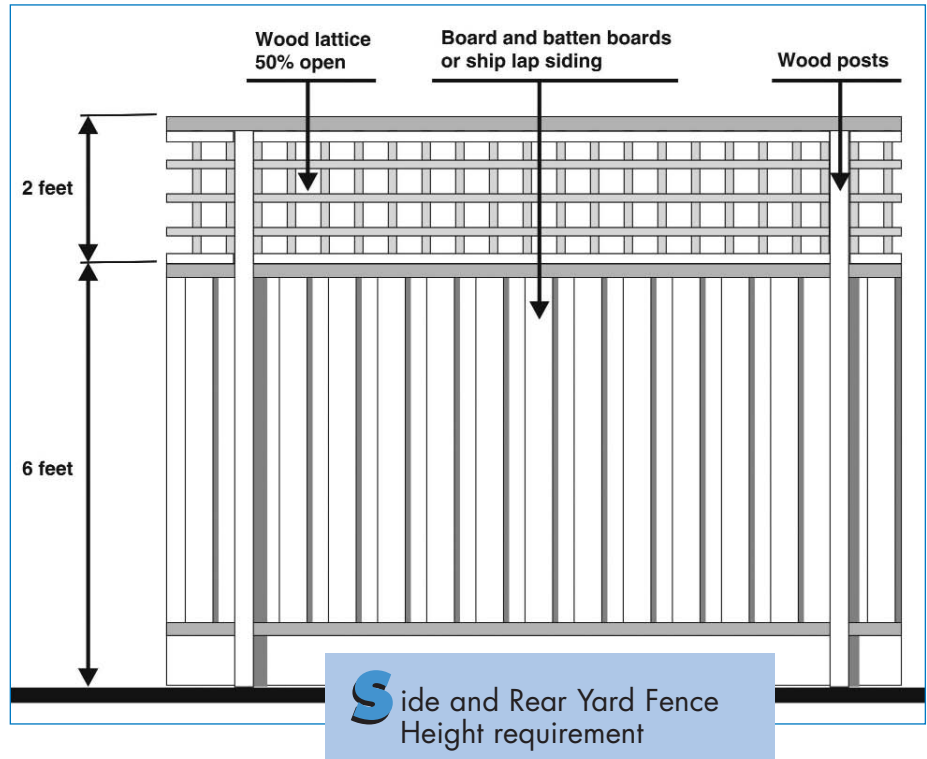
# Revised Fence Ordinance

The San Bruno City Council adopted revisions to the existing fence ordinance at the October 10, 2006, City Council meeting. The ordinance revisions were made in order to provide for additional privacy within side, rear, and front yards, while still enabling light penetration and air movement. The key provisions to the revised fence ordinance are as follows:

A six-foot-high fence may be constructed within the side or rear yard. An additional two feet of 50% open lattice may be constructed on the top of the fence for a total height that does not exceed eight feet.

A three-foot-high fence may be constructed within the front yard. Be sure to verify the location of your front property line prior to construction to ensure the fence will not be constructed within the public right-of-way.

On corner lots, a three-foot-high fence may be constructed within 25' of the street corner with Community Development Director



approval, provided that it does not create a solid visual barrier.

The diagram above illustrates the new fence regulations related to side and rear yard fences. Additional information is also available at <http://sanbruno.ca.gov/planning.html> or by contacting a City Planner in the San Bruno Community Development Department at (650) 616-7074.

## City of San Bruno New Business Listings for 5/01/06 through 9/30/06

These businesses have opened in San Bruno or had a change in ownership. We encourage you to visit these new businesses and shop locally, as a portion of the sales tax paid is returned to the City and used to provide City services.

Account Name		Phone	Business Address
A & F AUTOBODY REPAIR	Autobody	(650)588-8136	1265 SAN MATEO AVE
AN-DA ACUPUNCTURE CLINIC & CHINESE HERBS		(650)873-5959	249 EL CAMINO REAL
ATLANTIC BANCORP	Financial Services, Loans	(650)346-5890	250 EL CAMINO REAL
BAY AREA GOLF ACADEMY	Golf Instruction	(650)871-5671	2101 SNEATH LN
BRUCE CONSTRUCTION	Construction	(650)296-0323	1530 CLAREMONT DR
CAFE ON THE LAKE	Café	(650)588-7087	1200 BAYHILL DR STE 121
COCEVE INC.	Computer-related Services	(650)871-2599	903 SNEATH LN STE 225
EB GAMES #4605	Games	(650)952-4901	1150 EL CAMINO REAL
EB GAMES #5001	Games	(650)873-3284	851 CHERRY AVE STE 17
EFA FINANCIAL SERVICES	Financial Services	(650)616-4124	1001 BAYHILL DR
FIJI MARKET	Market	(650)589-6388	621 SAN MATEO AVE
J & D WASH N DRY	Laundromat	(650)873-7558	1750 EL CAMINO REAL
LAWLER'S TAE KWON DO, INC.	Martial Arts	(650)438-4271	851 CHERRY AVE STE 13 # 9
MARKON COMPANY	Imports	(916)714-3587	1150 EL CAMINO REAL
MB COLLECTIONS	Jewelry	(415)205-2739	1150 EL CAMINO REAL SPC 5517
MINERVA	Gift/Novelties	(650)873-4122	1150 EL CAMINO REAL STE 5509
PATISSERIE GANACHE	Bakery	(650)358-1744	851 CHERRY AVE UNIT 20
PET WORLD	Pet Shop	(650)583-7800	478 SAN MATEO AVE
SAN BRUNO EYE CARE CENTER	Eye Care	(650)588-7701	931 SAN BRUNO AVE W RM 4
SAN BRUNO PRODUCE MARKET	Produce Market	(650)952-2558	632 SAN MATEO AVE
SHARMA AUTO REPAIR	Auto Repair	(650)245-0223	1089 MONTGOMERY AVE
SPECTRUM COMPUTER	Computer-related Services	(415)595-1594	1150 EL CAMINO REAL, KIOSK
TECHNICS BODY SHOP	Autobody	(650)871-1666	898 SAN MATEO AVE
THE SERVICE STOP	Car Repair	(650)589-9791	265 SAN BRUNO AVE E
TIC TOE CHILDREN SHOES	Children's Shoes	(650)296-1615	1150 EL CAMINO REAL # 5508
TJ SCOTT	Women's Accessories	(415)504-8982	1150 EL CAMINO REAL, CART #6507
TRINIS BEAUTY SALON	Beauty Salon	(650)873-3612	605 SAN MATEO AVE

# How You Can Participate in the Successful Facade Program

The Redevelopment Agency is encouraging commercial property owners and business owners to take advantage of financial assistance available through the Building Facade Improvement Program. The Facade Program has already helped to renovate nine commercial buildings, including 13 storefronts, located mostly in downtown San Bruno in the three years since it was established. The Program is designed not only to help preserve the historic character of downtown, but also to rejuvenate storefronts that suffer from deferred maintenance, deteriorated or outdated design and materials.

The Facade Program provides matching grants of 50% of the project costs. Eligible projects must have a total cost of at least \$3,000, with maximum grant amounts ranging from \$8,250 to \$22,000, depending on the length of the storefront (including building sides and rear if applicable). Eligible properties must be located in the Redevelopment Area, which includes all commercial properties along El Camino Real, San Bruno Avenue east of El Camino Real, and San Mateo Avenue. Eligible improvements include painting, signage, doors, windows, awnings, graphics, exterior lighting, repair and replacement of facade surface materials, parapet modifications, sidewalks, and landscaping.

Applications are available at the Planning Counter in City Hall. Additional information is available at <http://sanbruno.ca.gov/redevelopment.html> or by calling a City Planner in the San Bruno Community Development Department at (650) 616-7074.

Following are some highlights of the Facade Program:

**466 San Mateo Avenue** – facade renovation and structural building improvements to accommodate the West Coast Café, a new Italian restaurant.

*Before*



*After*



**501-509 San Mateo Avenue** – seismic retrofit and restoration of architectural details on the building parapet, now the home of Starbucks Coffee and the Lovely Bump, a maternity clothing store.

*Before*



*After*



**609-617 San Mateo Avenue** – renovation of the historic former DeBenedetti Building built in 1909, which now houses three businesses, including Panaderia Eduardo's, a Mexican bakery.

*Before (built in 1909)*



*After*





# THEN & NOW

## San Bruno Senior Center

# Celebrating

If you've never been inside the San Bruno Senior Center, you need to stop by. The lobby is warm and inviting, with a buzz of activity and excitement.

On Tuesday, January 16, 2007, the San Bruno Senior Center will celebrate its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Twenty years ago, the average attendance at the Senior Center was 160 people per day. Members of the local community (50 years old or older) went to the Senior Center to meet friends, play cards, have lunch, play bingo, and share craft ideas. Approximately 20 different classes were offered each week, including numerous volunteer opportunities.

Today, the people who use the Senior Center are more diverse, and their interests have changed. The Baby Boomers are coming, and the Senior Center has changed to reflect the needs of this new dynamic. There are still numerous volunteer opportunities, but they are more administrative. People still need assistance with housing, transportation, and health care decisions, but there are additional questions about reverse mortgages, long-term care insurance, Medicare Part D, and intergenerational concerns. The Senior Center serves approximately 300 people each day – an 88% increase over the 1987 numbers. There are more than 65 different classes offered each week, and fewer people just attend the Center for lunch. In fact, the number of people who use the Congregate Lunch program has decreased from more than half of the people using the Center to only 25% of the Center participants. That may change because there is a new and popular lunch option: a salad bar that is stocked with fresh vegetables

and meats.

"Seniors" today are more interested in academic instruction, sports, exercise, and going on trips. The Senior Center offers classes in Pilates, tai chi, and yoga in addition to aerobic exercise, line, tap, and ballroom dance. You can join a book club, take a morning hike, stop by for a café latte, or shoot some pool with your

friends. Although the Bocce Ball court existed twenty years ago, it has recently become more popular with leagues, tournaments, and drop-in play.

One thing has remained consistent for the past twenty years: people just want to have fun, and every

holiday or special event is an excuse to party. The January 16th Anniversary Party will celebrate our past, present, and future by featuring a 6-piece band/DJ combo with dancing, food, and drinks from 10:00

am until 1:00 pm. Darold Fredricks has prepared a video that will chronicle the Senior Center's development. The public is invited to join us. Admission is \$2 per person.

As we look to the future, the City will be facilitating focus groups and distributing surveys in order to develop a strategic plan for the next twenty years of Senior Center programming. Together, we will examine and explore the demographic and cultural changes in the population and identify viable funding sources. So, come and join us, and help shape our future.



# Two City's Treasures

## San Bruno Cable

You know that PG&E provides your electric service, San Bruno Garbage collects your garbage, the City of San Bruno provides your water service, and San Bruno Cable provides your cable television service. But did you know that San Bruno Cable, your local cable company, is a City-owned enterprise, a City department just like the Water Department? If that is news to you, you should definitely read on.

The City of San Bruno has been providing cable television services through San Bruno Cable since 1971. This year marks San Bruno Cable's 35th year of service to the San Bruno community. San Bruno Cable is unique in that it is one of only two municipal cable operators in the San Francisco Bay Area, and one of only 100 or so municipal cable operators nationwide. Through the excellent stewardship of past and present City Councils, what started out as a 12-channel "broadcast stations only" service has grown into a state-of-the-art cable system. If you are interested in learning about the evolution of San Bruno Cable, a chronological history is available on the City's website located at [http://sanbruno.ca.gov/city\\_services/cable\\_television](http://sanbruno.ca.gov/city_services/cable_television). San Bruno Cable operates only within the geographic boundaries of San Bruno, so its service is accessible only by San Bruno households.

There are so many benefits enjoyed by the City and the community. It is important to know that there is local control as the City Council sets the operating policies of the Cable Department. The City Council approves the work program, the services that are offered, and sets the rates for these services. As a non-profit City-owned business, San Bruno Cable is able to keep its service rates generally lower than other cable service providers in the greater Bay Area. The Department remits a 5% in-lieu franchise fee and transfers 10% in equity earnings to the City's General Fund, and all remaining cash from operations is maintained in capital reserve accounts for investment back into the cable system. The Department provides the fiber network to connect municipal buildings for phone and data services, free cable and Internet services to municipal buildings and local schools, video coverage of government meetings and community events through San Bruno Cable Channel 11, and a video production internship program in partnership with Capuchino High School. Many of the customer service representatives and technicians are local residents and therefore familiar with the geography and demographics of the community, enabling the Department to provide a high level of customer service. Just as any other responsible



business in town, San Bruno Cable is actively involved with the San Bruno Chamber of Commerce and supports a variety of local civic non-profit organizations. As a self-sustaining and highly successful enterprise, San Bruno Cable carries a multi-million dollar valuation, making it a valuable asset of the City.

San Bruno Cable offers a variety of cable television services, such as basic cable, digital cable, digital music, international programming, high-definition television, video-on-demand, and pay-per-view. A High-Speed Cable Modem Internet service of 10 Mbps is also available. A free Wi-Fi or wireless Internet service is available in the food court at The Shops at Tanforan. In early 2007, San Bruno Cable will begin offering digital phone service, at which time subscribers will be able to choose from a variety of bundled packages of Cable, Internet and Phone services. Also in 2007, the cable system will be converted to an all-digital system, making it possible for every customer to have access to an interactive programming guide, parental controls, better picture and audio quality, and Video on Demand programming. Every household will have a free lease on two digital set-top boxes. So call San Bruno Cable, your local service provider, to inquire about these new developments and for all your entertainment and telecommunication needs. Just remember, choosing San Bruno Cable is investing in your own community. We are here to serve you!



# City Council Approves \$10.3 Million for Capital Projects

Street median improvements along El Camino Real, also known as the Grand Boulevard Improvement Project, which includes new gateway signage to enhance the appearance of the City; major wastewater relief sewer and pump station reconstruction; and seismic retrofitting seven water storage tanks – these projects and twenty-six other capital improvement projects were approved when the City Council adopted the City's Capital Improvement Program for 2006-11. A total of \$10,256,200 was approved for thirty-one capital projects to begin this year.

The Capital Improvement Program provides funding each year for capital projects designed to protect, preserve, and enhance the City's infrastructure of buildings, streets, and other public facilities. The program addresses the various long-term needs for water and wastewater facilities, traffic and transportation circulation, cable system upgrades, building improvements, and the purchase of technology and equipment.

While the City Council authorized funding for 2006-07, and reviewed the capital improvement requirements of the City over the next five years. The five-year Capital Improvement Program identifies 93 needed projects with a total cost of \$140,125,400.

The 2006-07 Capital Improvement Program, approved by the City Council, includes the following project highlights:

**Street Median & Grand Boulevard Improvement Project.** This project will put new landscaping and add irrigating systems to the street medians along El Camino Real.

**Arterial Streets Rehabilitation Project.** This project work involves asphalt overlay and/or dig-out repair on major City arterial roadways. Streets being considered are based on ratings generated by the City's

Pavement Management Program. Cherry Avenue between San Bruno Avenue and Sneath Lane will see a major restoration through this project.

**Rollingwood Relief Sewer.** This project addresses sewer capacity and maintenance issues in the "upper" and western parts of the City. New sewers will be placed under Fleetwood Drive, Catalpa Drive, Sneath Lane, and Amador Avenue.

**Signal at San Bruno Avenue and Shelter Creek Project.** This project will result in the installation of a traffic signal at this intersection. Operational signals are anticipated during 2007.

**Pump Station No. 5 Maple Replacement.** This project will rehabilitate the water pump station located one block southeast of Grundy Park. The work will include replacing or upgrading pumps, motors, and controls in an above-ground enclosure.

**Tank Modifications/Seismic Retrofit Program.** This project includes improvements necessary to

ensure that tanks can withstand a major earthquake. Work includes welding reinforcing steel plates to the exterior of the tanks, installing piers to better anchor the tanks, building concrete rings around the base of the tanks, and improving access manholes, ladders, and roofs.

**New Public Library Planning Project.** This project has provided in a review of strategies and options for a replacement of the Public Library. Additional planning will complete the needs assessment, building layout options, site analysis, and site strategies to replace the existing 50-year-old Library.

The adopted Capital Improvement Program Budget, and the General Fund, Special Revenue Funds and the Enterprise Funds Budget, are available for public review in the City Clerk's Office and at the Public Library. If you have any questions regarding the budgets, or City finances, please call Jim O'Leary, Finance Director, at (650) 616-7023.

## Major Sewer Project Making Progress

*(Continued from page 1)*

diversions presented an opportunity to correct a previously unidentified deficiency in pipe capacity. On October 24, 2006, the City Council approved a contract change order for Ranger Pipelines, the construction contractor, to install 10-inch replacement pipes in the area of Glenview Park and under Claremont Drive.

Project Engineer Wong, a registered civil engineer with over 30 years' experience and in his eighth year with San Bruno's Public Works Department, is happy so far with the results. "It's like any construction project," he says. "You find problems in the field, you get together with your engineers and your contractor to find solutions, and then you go forward. We just keep grinding away. It's like eating an elephant, you have to do it one bite at a time."

The "last bite" will be Phase II of the Rollingwood Relief Sewer. This project will include a new pressurized force main that will push sewage from the renovated Pacific Heights pump station to the new gravity pipeline installed under Phase I. Although this will complete the work to remedy low-capacity issues, Public Works isn't done. "There are still plenty of things to upgrade," says City Engineer Steve Davis. "The facilities in San Bruno's sewage system are mostly between 50 and 100 years old, and with the City Council's blessing, we're in the early stages of an aggressive ten-year plan to get things fixed up."

# Pharmaceutical Disposal Now Available in San Bruno

In the wrong hands, prescription medications can have fatal consequences. Not sure how to properly dispose of your unused or expired prescription medication? The San Bruno Police Department is participating in the San Mateo County Pharmaceutical Disposal Pilot Program.

Often, unused and old prescription medication are disposed of in sinks or flushed down toilets, thus entering our wastewater system. This pollutes our waterways and can contaminate fish and other species. Modern wastewater treatment plants are not designed to filter out pharmaceutical components that are disposed of down drains. The San Mateo County Pharmaceutical Disposal Program is intended as a first step toward reducing harmful medication into the wastewater system.

The San Bruno Police Department is one of four law enforcement agencies in the County to house a drop-off container for this pilot program. Citizens can bring their unused medication and place the items into the marked receptacle located in the Police Department lobby located at 1177 Huntington Ave. For further information about the program, please call the Police Department (650) 616-7100.



## UPDATE:

### Village at The Crossing Senior Apartments

The latest estimate for the completion of the Village Senior Apartments is **mid-January 2007**. Unfortunately, due to unexpected delays, the projected date to open the leasing office has changed to **Friday, December 1, 2006**. The leasing management understands that people have many questions regarding the unit amenities and the eligibility requirements and urge you to telephone your questions to their staff at (650) 588-8036 rather than visiting the construction site. They will have a live telephone line and be able to answer your questions via phone.

The Village is age-restricted to those aged 55 and older, and there are maximum income limits to be eligible for tenancy. There have been many questions about how assets such as home equity are treated and how they affect qualification. The answer to this and other similar questions are best handled by the leasing consultants when the leasing office opens in December.

Residents of the City of San Bruno and non-residents that work in the City of San Bruno are given priority in the unit selection process, followed by all others. Your priority is determined by these preference factors and when your deposit is received. All applications submitted are recorded by the date and time of receipt and will be processed in that order.

If you are interested in becoming a resident of the Village, you are encouraged to apply to get on the priority list. **If you have not already done so**, you must complete and mail in the priority list application form with a check in the amount of \$100. You can request to have the application mailed to you or you can pick up an application form at City Hall. This is a holding deposit to secure your place on the *Priority List*. This deposit is completely refundable and you may cancel your priority at any time and your money will be refunded.

The maximum income limits for 2006 are as follows (they are subject to change in 2007):

# of Persons in Household	1	2	3	4	5
Max. Annual Income	\$47,250	\$54,300	\$61,080	\$67,860	\$73,260

# FOCUS on your questions

**Q:** What does “Prima Facie Speed Limit” mean?

**A:** The California Vehicle Code in part says that the speed limit is 25 miles per hour on any highway other than a state highway, in any business or residential district unless a different speed is determined by local authority and when approaching or passing a school building or the grounds of a school. One of the most frequent complaints received by the Police Department and the Traffic Safety and Parking Committee is about speeders in residential areas and around schools. When driving your vehicle in these areas, remember to drive safely and obey the limit.

**Q:** If I use my windshield wipers because it is raining, is there anything else I need to do?

**A:** Yes, the California Vehicle Code requires the use of the vehicle’s headlamps if a condition exists requiring the windshield wipers to be in continuous use due to rain, mist, snow, fog, or other precipitation or atmospheric moisture. As we begin the winter months, please remember to use your headlights and drive safely.

**Q:** When is it necessary to have your child secured using a child safety seat?

**A:** If the child is under six years of age OR under sixty pounds.

**Q:** I prefer to use the Library remotely from my home. Can I pay Library fines electronically?

**A:** Yes, you can now pay your Library fines and fees through a new service called eCommerce. Using the website [www.plsinfo.org](http://www.plsinfo.org), just click on “My Library Account” and login with your barcode and PIN. The Pay Online button will appear in your view of Fees and Fines. Visa and MasterCard credit cards are the two acceptable forms of payment.

**Q:** What type of fire extinguisher should I purchase for my home and vehicle?

**A:** The Fire Department recommends an “ABC” type fire extinguisher. This type of extinguisher can be used for fires involving paper, wood, flammable liquids, cooking oil, and electrical appliances. A five-pound “ABC” extinguisher is easy to pick up, hold, and use. Remember to place extinguishers where they are readily available.

**Q:** My spouse and I are getting up in age, and I am having difficulty at times helping him up if he falls in the house, but is not injured. What can I do?

**A:** The Fire Department routinely performs lift assist and public assist calls. It is best to call 911 first, so the dispatcher can determine the extent of the problem. Often, the Fire Department is then dispatched without lights and sirens to assist lifting your spouse to a more comfortable location. The firefighters will also check your smoke alarms to make sure they are working properly.

## San Bruno Park School District Needs Your Help!

The San Bruno Park School District is celebrating its Centennial “100 Years of Success,” 1906-2006. We are planning a yearlong celebration with each school having a special event each month, which began in September 2006. Our culminating event will be a three-day event, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, with all students and families walking in the Posy Parade on June 3, 2007. We are now contacting all current and former San Bruno students to invite them and all the community to help in the celebrations. We are seeking helpers, ideas, and incentives to keep the celebrations in San Bruno.

Can you help us? Have old photos? For more information, please contact Jim Prescott, SBPSD Centennial Committee, at (650) 589-6196.

## Frequently Called Numbers (Area Code 650)

Building Permits	616-7076
Business Taxes & Licenses	616-7083
Cable TV	877-8889
City Clerk	616-7058
City Council	616-7060
City Manager	616-7056
Finance	616-7080
Fire - Business	616-7096
Graffiti Hotline	616-7141
Library	616-7078
Neighborhood Improvement	616-7074
Recreation	616-7180
Human Resources Division	616-7055
Parks	616-7195
Planning	616-7074
Police - Business	616-7100
Public Works/ Corp. Yard	616-7160
Public Works/ Engineering	616-7065
Senior Center	616-7150
Streets	616-7161
Utility Billing	616-7086

**EMERGENCY**  
**9 1 1**